

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 February 2005 (10.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/012968 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G02B 6/35, 6/26**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/003187

(22) International Filing Date: 23 July 2004 (23.07.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0317522.1 26 July 2003 (26.07.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **QINETIQ LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Registered Office, 85 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6PD (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MCNIE, Mark, E.** [GB/GB]; QinetiQ Limited, Malvern Technology Centre, Room E9A4, St Andrew's Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3PS (GB). **JENKINS, Richard, M.** [GB/GB]; QinetiQ Limited, Malvern Technology Centre, Room PA109, St Andrew's Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 3PS (GB).

(74) Agent: **DUNN, P., E.**; QinetiQ Ltd, IP Formalities, Cody Technology Park, A4 Building, Room G016, Ively Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0LX (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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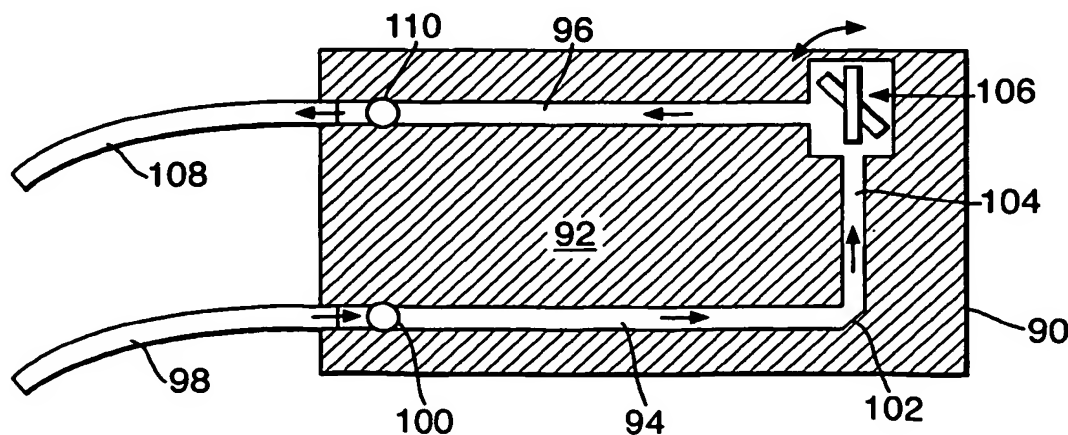
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

— with international search report

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(54) Title: **VARIABLE OPTICAL ATTENUATOR**



(57) Abstract: A variable optical attenuator (VOA) device (20; 40; 50; 90) is described that comprises a first optical waveguide (24; 52; 80; 94; 120; 140) and a second optical waveguide (26; 42; 54; 82; 96; 122; 142). A moveable reflective element (28; 84; 106; 124; 144), such as a micro-electro mechanical system (MEMS) based component, is provided that has a controllable orientation with respect to at least one of said first and second optical waveguides. The first and second waveguides are formed as hollow core optical waveguides.



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